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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 001754

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [NL](#) [OTRA](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: EMBASSY THE HAGUE WELCOMES A/S BETH JONES

REF: SECSTATE 197583

[11](#). Embassy The Hague warmly welcomes and grants country clearance to Assistant Secretary of State Beth Jones and Kent Logsdon for July 15 - July 16, 2003.

[12](#). Control Officer for the visit will be Embassy The Hague Political Counselor Mary Daly, (31) 70-310-9341 (Office), (31) 70-310-9348 (Fax), (31) 65-378-2321 (Mobile), (31) 70-324-4383 (Home). When dialing in the Netherlands, substitute (31) with (0).

[13](#). Hotel reservations have been made at the Carelton Ambassador, address: Sofialaan 2, phone: (31) 70-363-0363.

[14](#). See paragraph 8 for notional schedule.

SECURITY ADVISORY:

[15](#). (U) Post provides the following threat assessment for The Netherlands: The Department of State on April 21, 2003 issued a worldwide caution to alert Americans of the need to remain vigilant. The Department of State reminds Americans that tensions remaining from the recent events in Iraq may increase the potential threat to U.S. citizens and interests abroad, including by terrorist groups. Terrorist actions may include, but are not limited to: suicide operations, bombings or kidnappings. Possible threats include conventional weapons such as explosive devices or non-conventional weapons, including chemical or biological agents. Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. These may include facilities where American citizens and other foreigners congregate or visit, such as residential areas, clubs restaurants, places of worship, schools, hotels, outdoor recreation events or resorts and beaches. If facilities cannot be avoided, U.S. citizens should increase their security awareness at such locations. Please consult the Department's web site for text: <http://travel.state.gov>. In light of this caution all visitors to The Netherlands are encouraged to assess their security posture and be alert to their surroundings for possible surveillance. All visitors should exercise caution while traveling abroad, as U.S. citizens and facilities are often the target of groups demonstrating opposition to U.S. foreign policy.

[16](#). (U) A major concern for visitors is crime. Most crimes against official Americans are limited to pick-pocketing and luggage theft. However, burglary, vandalism to automobiles, and theft from hotel rooms are not unknown. Recently, theft of laptop computers has increased, especially at Schiphol airport and major train stations. The thieves operate in small groups, are determined and well practiced at distraction theft. Several official travelers have been victimized lately, losing personal and unclassified government computers, valuable software and data. Regulations require the use of the diplomatic pouch for shipment of classified equipment and information.

[17](#). (U) Streets can be walked in relative safety, but as in any U.S. urban city, the same amount of caution should be exercised after dark in the more populated cities of The Hague, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam. Red-light districts and public transportation hubs are common locations for incidents of street crime.

[18](#). NOTIONAL SCHEDULE  
Tuesday, July 15:

08:35

Arrival at Schipol from London on Lufthansa #6581, met by DCM and Pol Counselor

09:15

Country Team

09:45-10:45

Meeting with Ms. Diem Korvinus (National Rapporteur for Trafficking in Persons)

11:00

Boris Dittrich, floor leader of D-66 and Bert Bakker, Foreign Affairs spokesperson

11:30

Meeting with Labor Party MPs Frans Timmermans (Defense, Europe) and Nebahat Albayrak (defense, foreign affairs,

justice)

12:15

Amb. Daan Everts, OSCE Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1:00-3:00

Lunch hosted by dep Pol Counselor Herman Schaper at Les Ombrelles

3:00-3:45

Meeting with MoJ Secretary-General Joris Demmink

4:00

Town Hall Meeting

5:00

Robert van de Roer, Diplomatic Correspondent for influential daily newspaper NRC Handelsblad

6:00-7:30

Reading Time

7:30

Dinner with State Department section heads

Wednesday, July 16:

(before) 6:00

Pickup at hotel for airport

7:50

Depart Schipol for flight to Vienna on Austrian Air #378

BAILY